

DDC takes the CGA Show on the Road

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

The Commercial Activities Office of the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) recently developed a training program for DDC's Continuing Government Activities (CGAs), and now they've begun their world tour.

First stop: Defense Distribution Depot Puget Sound, WA (DDPW), one of the most recent DDC sites to complete the A-76 process, a competition that determines the best value for the taxpayer by examining the benefits of retaining mission work in-house or contracting the work out to a source from the private sector. During the two-week training designed to assist the CGA in overseeing the work of the performing activity, at DDPW is the in-house Most Efficient Organization (MEO), the students received information on topics such as conflict resolution, partnering with the MEO, DDC policies and procedures, quality assurance, as well as information about the responsibilities of the CGA, MEO and DDC staffs.

DDPW's new Deputy Commander, Susan Earle, found the training to be informative and educational. "The training took a lot of the guess work out of depot

operations in a post A-76 environment...and provided the tools needed to be successful."

With the ultimate goal of complete customer satisfaction, the course taught CGA members what to expect in the coming months in order to make the transition as seamless and invisible to the customer as possible.

The course was taught by a team of DDC personnel whose varied expertise were key to the development and success of the training: Annie Meeks (project leader for the development of the CGA Handbook) Jim Buckley (quality management expert), James Norris (quality assurance expert), and Gary Thompson (distribution expert and former distribution center commander). Laura Blubaugh of DDC's Financial Operations directorate also provided training on budget and financial-related issues.

DDPW's Rory Pitts said, "The instructors were very knowledgeable and the team-building exercises were real eye-openers."

Steve Jackson of DDPW also found the course to be informative. "The training provided some valuable information that should be very helpful during the initial transition and long-term successful implementation to the MEO and CGA," he said.

Earle added that the session "highlighted the need for good communication for a successful working relationship between the CGA and the MEO."

This training is the first of three that the CGA members will have over the next 16 months. As the group becomes more familiar with their roles, they will receive more advanced training in addition to the continuing support provided by DDC's A-76 Project Office.

For Meeks and company, their next stop will be Defense Distribution Depot Tobyhanna, PA (DDTP) where the A-76 decision to keep the distribution operations in-house was announced in June.

Several more stops all around the nation are scheduled for the team in the upcoming months as they make their way to each of the distribution centers that has completed the A-76 process (both contractor and government-operated sites).

After being on the road for four straight weeks already, Meeks said she had to get used to driving her own car again. Then she asked, "What time zone are we in?"

DDC Bids Fond Farewell to British Exchange Officer

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Defense Distribution Center (DDC) co-workers and friends of British Exchange Officer Lt Col Roger Patrick, RLC, gathered to say goodbye as Lt Col Patrick completed his two-year tour with DDC and prepared to return to England.

DDC Commander BG Kathleen M. Gainey, USA, recalled that when she first met Lt Col Patrick, she wasn't quite sure what he meant by the term "brigading" that he pronounced with his fine British accent as bri-GODD-ing. As the group's laughter died away, BG Gainey thanked Lt Col Patrick for his contributions as part of DDC's A-76 Transition Team. "Your incredible experience, skill and dedication made you an asset to our team," said BG Gainey.

Lt Col Patrick then accepted a DLA plaque and a DDC Commander's coin presented to him in appreciation for his efforts. Addressing the crowd, he said, "I thank all of you for your friendship and support. In my 30 years of service, I've served in four countries. This is the only one I have asked to stay in, but that didn't work out." Lt Col Patrick and his wife will be returning to England where he plans to retire.

In closing, Lt Col Patrick turned to BG Gainey and said, "General, 'brigading' is simply bringing soldiers together, and you do that quite well here."



DDC Commander BG Kathleen M. Gainey, USA, presented Lt Col Roger Patrick, RLC, with a DLA plaque and a DDC Commander's coin in appreciation for his contributions while serving as DDC's British Exchange Officer.